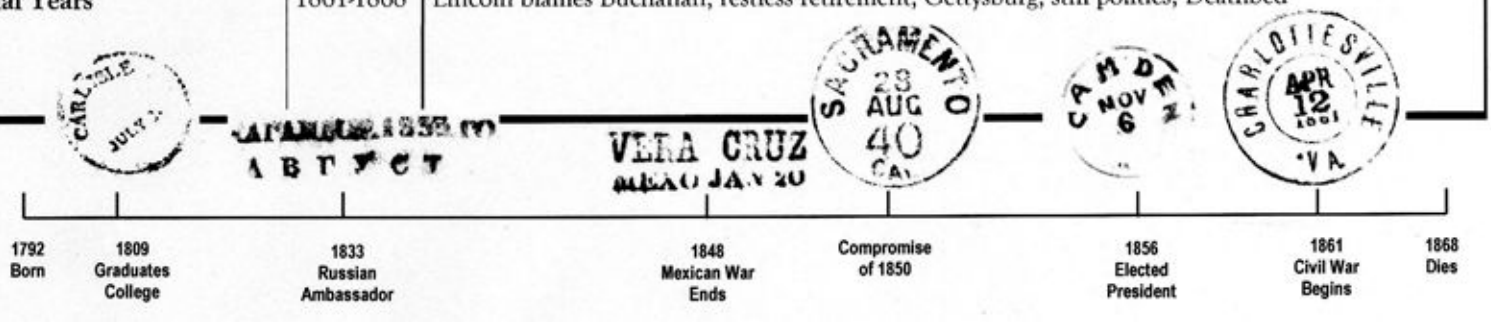
After a lifetime of public service, James Buchanan became the fifteenth President He was a rational, logical man in an emotional and irrational time - a conflict he could not overcome. The exhibit traces his life and times by relating philatelic items to historic events occurring as these letters passed through the mail. The exhibit seeks to dramatize that, in addition to postal history, the post chronicles our social and political history. While some items may not be "Buchanan memorabilia," they are timely as to the period's history. Each piece is a tiny bit of history. Strung together they tell the story of the Gentleman from Pennsylvania. The text is written in the first person as if Buchanan were speaking.

Boldface, italics in the text are quotes by Buchanan.

Sections		
Early Years	1784-1820	Coming to America, birth, college, studies law, War of 1812, State Assembly, summer getaway, Missouri Compromise, Hanna the slave
Young Legislator	1821-1833	Family Party, entering national politics, supports Calhoun, Bargain & Sale, law practice, opposing Adams, Jackson elected, Peck impeachment, leads the Amalgamators, Minister to Russia, defeated for Senate
Senator	1834-1845	Arkansas statehood, Senate snapshot, Michigan statehood, reelected, Forsyth feud, Panic of '37, Bank & Biddle, Pa. Constitutional Convention, Mercersburg farm, Right of Petition, refuses Attorney General post, pushes Johnson aside, Whigs in Power, "10¢ Jimmy," independent Texas, Webster-Asburton Treaty, nomination of 1844, local politics, Texas settled
Secretary of State	1845-1849	Appointed Secretary of State, Refuses Supreme Court, Latin America, Harriet to convent, Latin America, Trist recalled, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848 nomination, Cuba, Free Soil Party, postal treaties
Short Retirement	1849-1852	Leaving government service, Compromise of 1850, nomination of 1852, Christina riots, waiting for employment
Minister to England	1852-1855	Hate letter, Pennsylvania appointments, sails for England, meets the Queen, Sandwich Islands, return delayed, Kansas War
The People's Choice	1856	Returning home, Sumner attacked in Senate, the candidates, the abolitionists speak, elected
Early Administration	1857-1858	Congress & patronage, personal secretary, paying political debts, Secretary of War, Postmaster General, trouble in Utah, Lecompton Convention, postal treaties, Opium War, Minnesota statehood, Chinese Treaty, transatlantic cable, the "Walker Wars," Oxbow route, Paraguay and Monroe doctrine
Expansionist Buchanan	1859	Cuba, Alaska, no second term, Oregon, Convode Committee, John Brown, "Pig War"
Road to War	1860	Kansas, Pony Express, Baltimore conventions, campaign begins, Douglas defies Buchanan, the issues, secession policy, the morning after, November 9th, Committee of Thirteen, Constitutional Convention, Democracy dividing, losing old friends
The Chaos Begins	1861	Star of the West, Mississippi & Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, final days, changing the watch, Ft. Sumter, war
Final Years	1861-1868	Lincoln blames Buchanan, restless retirement, Gettysburg, still politics, Deathbed